



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
South Florida Ecological Services Office
1339 20th Street
Vero Beach, Florida 32960

March 23, 2005

Marlene Hammock
Florida East Coast Railway
Post Office Drawer 1048
St. Augustine, Florida 32085-1048

Service Log No.: 4-1-05-PL-11066

Project: East Coast Railway Abandonments
Counties: Brevard and Miami-Dade

Dear Ms. Hammock:

Thank you for your letter dated February 25, 2005, in which you requested the Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) technical assistance on your project. This letter provides the Service's comments on the projects referenced above.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Florida East Coast Railway proposes to abandon two of its existing branch railroad lines. These lines include the 9.8-mile Titusville branch, and the 5-mile Kendall Branch. Both of these lines have not been used for railroad traffic during the past 2 years. The existing rails and ties will be removed from each site and properly disposed of off-site. The underlying roadbed of each track will not be disturbed. The project sites are located in Brevard County and Miami-Dade County, Florida.

FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

The Service notes the Kendall Branch in Miami-Dade County is located in a highly urbanized area that provides little habitat for fish and wildlife. Therefore, we do not believe the abandonment of the Kendall Branch will result in adverse affects to fish and wildlife. The Titusville Branch is located in Brevard County. Brevard County is outside the area of responsibility of the Vero Beach Ecological Services Office. For comments on the Titusville Branch abandonment project, we recommend you contact our Jacksonville Ecological Services Office located at 6620 Southpoint Drive, Suite 310, Jacksonville, Florida 32216-0912.



Marlene Hammock

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Thank you for cooperation in protecting fish and wildlife resources. If you have any questions, please contact John Wrublik at 772-562-3909, extension 282.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allen P. Webb" followed by a small flourish.

James J. Slack
Field Supervisor
South Florida Ecological Services Office

cc:

DEP, West Palm Beach, Florida
EPA, West Palm Beach, Florida
FWC, Vero Beach, Florida